

# TOKEN TOPICS

of the

CALIFORNIA ASSN. of TRANSPORTATION TOKEN COLLECTORS

September 1966

Well, maybe this is the start of something new for the California Token Collectors. When it came time to do an announcement for the next meeting, someone said, "Better include a map for finding the place." And someone else said, "Guess that would mean a full-size sheet instead of the usual postcards." Then still someone else said, "Why not do a little news bulletin of it?" Finally someone else said, "Okay, I'll write it if you'll mail it." So maybe our gang will like this well enough to make it an all-year thing.

Some of the other regional clubs have regular bulletins going, with good results. Because they can carry more information, they generally stimulate better meeting attendance. Besides they are valuable for inter-club exchanges, promoting better fellowship with Vecturists in all parts of the country. At the September meeting, then, please make your feelings known on this idea of a regular bulletin... and we'll go on from there.

# # # # #

The next regular meeting of  
THE CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF TRANSPORTATION TOKEN COLLECTORS  
will be held on

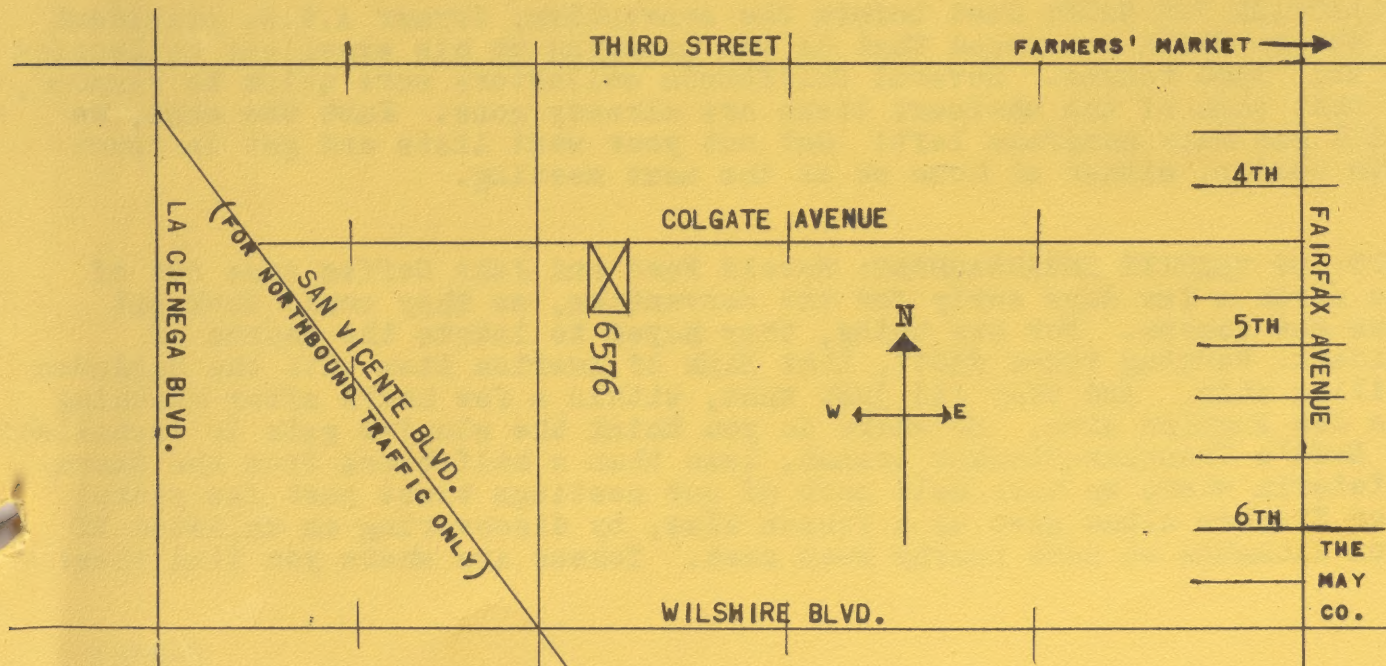
Sunday afternoon, September 11th, from 2:00 to 4:30

at the home of

BOB and MOLLY RITTERBAND, 6576 Colgate Avenue, Los Angeles (Phone: 213/938-4504)

All local collectors are welcome... and urged to be there. This will be your chance to catch up on all that unfinished swapping left over from the Disneyland convention. Refreshments will be served, even maybe some more of those famous, ever-lovin' cookies!

Here's where to find the house.....





## A MATTER OF DOLLARS

Last month's A.V.A. Convention, hosted by our club at Disneyland, will long be remembered. In many ways it was an outstanding success, and we feel sympathy for any neighboring collectors who were unable or who neglected to attend. It set new records for total turnout, both as to members and overall, and afforded endless opportunities for token activities and trading. Without exception, those who were here from all over the U.S.A. declared this to be one of the very finest.

Without intending to do so, our club ended up on this affair rather nicely in the matter of dollars. Thanks to the good attendance, the Gallagher generosity, the demand for extra souvenir tokens, the lower costs than anticipated on a few items of the budget, and a bit of sound convention management, we find ourselves in a pleasant financial picture. But as always, the solving of one problem often brings on others. Now a question: How shall we allocate these new funds for the greatest good of all? This will be a subject for real discussion at the coming meeting, so be sure to attend and give us your opinion.

## "OUR" ISSUE OF THE FARE BOX

By now all A.V.A. members, California and otherwise, should have received their August issue of The Fare Box. And thereby hangs a tale! Several months ago Robert Ritterband suggested to Editor John Coffee that one way to keep the issue dates from lagging often would be to get the convention issues out quicker. Heretofore the August bulletin always had to await Coffee's return to Boston in September from his annual Tacoma sojourn. Each subsequent issue was thus displaced, until John could gradually catch up again some months later. Bob said that the convention hosts should be in a good position to do the job, and John decided to give the plan a try.

For unexpected reasons, it ended up being somewhat a one-man job, rather than a club effort. Still, the issue got out on time, giving John a complete vacation for a change. Most of all it proved what might be done. It is hoped that future conclave committees will see fit to volunteer for the plan also, for the benefit of the editor and the entire membership.

**COLLECTION FOR SALE:** Just before the convention, former A.V.A. president F. Gordon Smith announced that he was breaking up his excellent collection of some 3500 tokens. Several California collectors were quick to respond, so that some of the choicest items are already gone. Just the same, he still has many hundreds left! Get out your want lists and get in touch with Gordon, either at home or at the next meeting.

**DEPT. OF GENUINE EMBARRASMENT:** Harold Ford and John Coffee came out of the north a few days early for the convention, so they could seek out some new tokens. For one thing, they hoped to locate the source of Unident. Parking Token #3017, that Bank of America item with the handsome sailing ship. And they did just that, within a few hours after reaching the Los Angeles area. So where do you think the elusive gate is installed? At BofA's Crenshaw-Stocker branch, less than a half-block from the Ontra Cafeteria where we have held most of our meetings these past few years! Then Stephen Album gave us a lesson also, by discovering an unlisted PT from Alhambra at some nearby swap meet. Tokens are where you find them!



# TOKEN TOPICS

of the

CALIFORNIA ASSN. of TRANSPORTATION TOKEN COLLECTORS

Issue #2  
November 1966

ROBERT RITTERBAND,  
Editor

IT'S FOR SURE! Our club will have a regular bulletin now, mostly because the members at the September meeting voted unanimously to convert the experimental issue into a full-time thing. There will be six issues per year, mailed about two weeks before each meeting, and they will be kept to two pages for the time being. (Maybe some day a complete file of these will be found in the Smithsonian... or maybe not!)

Our bulletin will follow the lead of two regional Token clubs, but not three others. To be exact, we will not be including members' ads. Most of all it's a matter of space; besides your editor thinks that The Fare Box is doing an excellent job in this field.

This doesn't mean, though, that we won't be plugging for everyone. For example, last month we told of Gordon Smith's collection being offered for sale, and very promptly Harold Schmal made contact and bought all the remaining pieces. This month we are sending along one of the latest Railroad Book catalogs issued by our new member, Donald Duke. (Those who were at the Disneyland convention will remember his fine display there.) The mailing is being done at Don's expense, not the club's, so look over these items and find what you might want for your library or for gift giving.

NEXT MEETING: Our final session for the year will be on Sunday afternoon, November 13th, from 2:00 to 4:30, at the home of ELAINE WILLAHAN. Only a few newer members haven't yet had a chance to share her fine hospitality, so we'll just list the address and not bother with a map this time. The location is 516 W. 99th Street, Los Angeles 90044, right near Century and Figueroa Street. Leave the Harbor Freeway at Century Blvd., go west a block, and you can't miss it. (But if you do, the phone number is 755-2708) We traditionally hold an election of new officers in November, so please come prepared to voice an opinion.

LAST MEETING: Wow! A total of 23 on hand at Ritterband's in September, which just has to be the biggest regular session our club ever had. Some of us can easily recall when time after time the score was about six or eight. Don't know if the good turnout was from "the power of the press" (in other words, the new bulletin), or if it came from momentum generated at our Convention. In any event, it was a wonderful chance for swapping of tokens and fellowship, which we hope will be repeated frequently. Because it was our first gathering after the Convention, too much time had to be given over to winding up our business affairs. Later several suggested that maybe our business might be handled best by the officers in a separate session, which is something for next year's leaders to consider.

NEW MEMBERS: At the last meeting, and since, we have added six new fellows to our Club roster. Get to know each one soon, they are among the finest!

JOHN BARNES, Los Angeles  
WILLIAM BEATTIE, Riverside  
ROBERT CARLISLE, San Diego

DONALD DUKE, San Marino  
ERIC GRAY, San Gabriel  
LES HAWTHORNE, Los Angeles

All are not members of the A.V.A. yet, but we imagine they will be making up for that lack soon.



**A NEW CLUB?** From the Bay Area comes word on the possibility of putting together a Tokens club now for northern collectors. Great! Your editor has long believed that much A.V.A. strength lies in the strength and support of the regional clubs. Yes, a number of the Northern Californians are already solid members of the C.A.T.T.C. But even in these days of jet flight, we know how difficult it is for them to come often to our meetings in Southern California.

We would offer one suggestion to a new group, though. Instead of trying to launch a totally separate organization, wouldn't it be better for all of us if we set up a northern chapter and a southern chapter of the present California Association? It would give the new group a solid background in a going concern, with an established bulletin, a bit of operating funds, and a tradition of success. Maybe once a year our two sets of officers could plan an inter-chapter gathering, alternating north and south, and we could all work together in a united front. Wouldn't that be better than two rival clubs within a single state? Why, we might even get into a hassle over which club had the right to use the name "California" in its title!

We offer our help in getting the new group started, and hope to hear more about it soon.

**CLUB ACQUISITIONS:** Without planning it, our club is steadily acquiring numerous mementos, gifts and archives that apply to token collecting or transportation subjects. For a while it was just a few scattered pieces, but as the club has grown so has the number of items.

After Gordon Smith broke up his collection last month, he passed along to the editor a large batch of pictures, booklets, newspaper clippings, and so on, pertaining to our field. Though the materials need cataloguing, and mounting in some instances, it all seems much too worthwhile not to preserve carefully. Various convention visitors left little gifts for our club members at large. Eddie Cutler turned in some excellent color slides on two earlier Vecturist gatherings.

About a month ago, a most unusual item was sent to the editor by our sole Canadian conventioneer, Harold Don Allen. His covering letter describes it best, as follows:

"... I was impressed by the thoughtfulness and resourcefulness shown in locating the Canadian flag to display at the wonderful AVA-1966 Convention. Perhaps the California Club would like this unusual and little known regional flag of the historic Royaume de Saguenay, of the Saguenay district of N.E. Quebec, from which comes Quebec 100-A,B. The flag does have status; when the Canadian destroyer "HMCS Saguenay" docked at Chicoutami this spring, I noted that she flew both Canadian and Saguenay flags....."

Our copy of the flag is 9x14 inches, in green, yellow, red and grey. It will be displayed at our next meeting... with sincere thanks to Mr. Allen! All of these donations raises an important question. How can we best preserve these souvenirs for future enjoyment? It's a matter that our members together will have to decide, and rather promptly too.

**SO SOON?** Here we are already at the end of the second page, and we still had two more "topics" to present. Well, all we can do now is to hope that each of you will be at the next meeting, for sure, and we can tell you about them in person. Don't forget: Sunday afternoon, November 13th, at the home of Elaine Willahan, hostess extraordinary!